GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2363
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the World Development Report agriculture has been mentioned as a good medium for poverty alleviation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for agricultural development on the basis of the said report?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(c): According to World Development Report, 2008, agriculture is a vital development tool for poverty alleviation since three out of every four poor people in developing countries live in rural areas and most of them depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihood. Hence, the problem of poverty in the developing countries can be addressed by increasing agricultural productivity and generating rural non-farm employment.

To sustain and revitalize agriculture sector, Government of India has taken several steps, which inter-alia, include approval of the National Policy for Farmers 2007 by Government of India with an aim to improve the economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of farmers.The provisions in the National Policy for Farmers, inter alia, include asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources, skill development; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies for improving productivity in a sustainable manner; and better marketing opportunities for farmers etc. Number of ongoing schemes/programmes of Government operationalize many of the provisions of the Policy.In addition,the Government of India has launched two new schemes namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector with flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes.Initiatives of Government also include provision of crop loan upto Rs.3.00 lakhs to farmers at reduced interest of 7% per annum, implementation of a scheme of debt waiver and debt relief as announced in Union Budget 2008-09 and a number of Plan Schemes/programmes being implemented for development of agriculture and allied sector.